

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. – 7. (CANCELLED)

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A roof tile support system, comprising:

a roofing surface;

a plurality of roof tiles, each having an undersurface, said undersurface having a front end portion, a middle portion and a back end portion; and

a plurality of independent, generally wedge-shaped support elements constructed from a compressible material, the support elements being sized and adapted to contact at least the middle portion of the undersurface of the roof tiles, but not the entire undersurface of the roof tiles, such that at least either the front end portion or the back end portion of the undersurface of the roof tiles overhangs the support elements, the support elements being positioned between and in contact with both of said roofing surface and said roof tiles,

wherein said support elements are arranged on the roof surface in at least a lower row and an upper row, and with the support elements in each row having a space between adjacent support elements; wherein said support elements support said roof tiles so as to increase the load capacities of said roof tiles, and wherein each support element is configured to support more than one roof tile of any shape in a single course; and

wherein the support elements are not specially adapted or shaped with respect to the roof tiles, such that the roof tiles are independently installable on the support elements so that their position thereon is adjustable during installation.

9. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The roof tile support system of Claim 8, wherein the plurality of roof tiles float on the plurality of support elements, whereby each individual roof tile is supported against breakage by at least one support element.

10. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The roof tile support system of Claim 8, wherein said roof tiles are arranged in courses and an upper course is supported by said support elements such that front portions of the roof tiles of the upper course contact back end portions of tiles in an adjacent lower course of roof tiles.

11. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The roof tile support system of Claim 8, wherein at least one roof tile comprises a back end portion which overlaps a rear end of the support element on which it is supported.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The roof tile support system of Claim 11, wherein the ~~rear~~ back end portion of the said at least one roof tile is in contact with the roof surface.

13. (CANCELLED)

14. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The roof tile support system of Claim 8, wherein said roof tiles are arranged in courses and a first course is supported by said support elements such that front end portions of the roof tiles of the upper course overlap back end portions of tiles in an adjacent lower course of roof tiles.

15. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The roof tile support system of Claim 14, wherein an amount by which the roof tiles in the upper course overlap the tiles in the adjacent lower course is configured to be adjustable during installation.

16. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The roof tile support system of Claim 15, wherein said support elements have arch sections, and said roof tiles are barrel roof tiles.

17. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The roof tile support system of Claim 15, wherein said support elements have a triangular cross-section.

18. (ORIGINAL) The roof tile support system of Claim 15, wherein said support elements have a quadrilateral cross-section.

19. (ORIGINAL) The roof tile support system of Claim 8, wherein said support elements are made of expanded polystyrene.

20. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The roof tile support system of Claim 8, wherein said roof tiles are arranged in courses and an upper course is supported by said support elements such that front end portions of the roof tiles of the upper course are elevated some distance above rear end portions of tiles in an adjacent lower course of roof tiles.

21. (ORIGINAL) The roof tile support system of Claim 8, wherein said roof tiles are supported by said support elements such that the weight of said tiles, or a concentrated load on said tiles, will be distributed over said support elements and said roofing surface.

22. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The roof tile support system of Claim 8, wherein said roof tiles are arranged in courses and a first course is supported by said support elements such

that the weight of said tiles, or a concentrated load on said tiles, will be distributed over said support elements, said roofing surface and a second lower course of roof tiles.

23. – 25. (CANCELLED)

26. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of installing roof tile supports, comprising:

first, placing a wedge shaped support element on a roofing surface;

then, placing a first roof tile on said support element such that at least a central portion of an underside of said roof tile is substantially supported by the support element, and such that said first roof tile does not contact a roof tile in an adjacent lower course; and

finally, securing said roof tile to said roofing surface.

27. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of installing roof tile supports of Claim 26, wherein said first roof tile is placed in contact with both said roofing surface and said support element.

28. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of installing roof tile supports of Claim 27, further including a second roof tile adjacent and in the same course with said first roof tile, wherein said second roof tile is placed in contact with said roofing surface, said support element, and said first roof tile.

29. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of installing roof tile supports of Claim 26, wherein securing said first roof tile to said roofing surface comprises driving a nail through said first roof tile into said roofing surface.

30. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of installing roof tile supports of Claim 29, wherein said nail also passes through a portion of said support element.

31. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of installing roof tile supports of Claim 26, further including a second support element, wherein said second support element is positioned to the side of said first support element so as to leave a gap between the two elements.

32. – 36. (CANCELLED)

37. (WITHDRAWN) A method of making a roof tile support comprising:

providing a block of expanded polystyrene having dimensions larger than a support to be produced;

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cutting said block of expanded polystyrene with a hot wire; and
orienting said wire relative to said block to cut the block into a wedge shape.

38. – 59. (CANCELLED)